

Amendments to the Claims:

Please replace all prior claims versions and listings with the following:

AI
1. (withdrawn) An apparatus for cutting a catalyst substrate having a longitudinal axis, comprising:
(a) a first guide;
(b) a second guide spaced from the first guide along the longitudinal axis;
(c) a cutting filament extending from the first guide to the second guide; and
(d) a drive mechanism connected to one of the first guide and the second guide for rotating the one of the first guide and the second guide relative to the remaining one of the first guide and the second guide to intersect the cutting filament with the longitudinal axis of the catalyst substrate.

2. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first guide is a collar sized to encircle a cross-section area of the catalyst substrate.

3. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first guide includes a bearing surface for contacting the cutting filament and the second guide includes a corresponding bearing surface for contacting the cutting filament.

4. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first guide and the second guide are selected to define a variable distance along the longitudinal axis, between the guides.

5. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the cutting filament is disposed about an open path.

6. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the cutting filament is disposed about a closed path.

7. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a carriage for selectively varying the distance between the first guide and the second guide.

8. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a bearing surface on the first guide for locating the cutting filament relative to the first guide at a predetermined distance from the longitudinal axis.

9. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a bearing surface on the second guide for locating the cutting filament relative to the second guide at a predetermined distance from the longitudinal axis.

10. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein one of the first guide and the second guide is selected to form a non-concentric shaped face on the catalyst substrate.

11. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein one of the first guide and the second guide is selected to form an asymmetric shaped face on the catalyst substrate.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~12~~19 wherein the ~~method~~, further comprising ~~locating a first guide and a~~ the second guide are located adjacent the catalyst substrate.

14. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~13~~19, further comprising rotating the first guide relative to the second guide.

15. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~19~~13, ~~further comprising passing wherein the cutting filament is disposed about an open path that, wherein the open path includes a path section extending between the first guide and the second guide.~~

16. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~19~~13, ~~further comprising passing wherein the cutting filament is disposed about a closed path that, wherein the closed path includes a path section extending between the first guide and the second guide.~~

17. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~12~~19 wherein the longitudinal separation and radial spacing of the guides are controlled to form a, further comprising ~~forming an asymmetric shaped face on the catalyst substrate which is concentric with the longitudinal axis thereof.~~

18. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~12~~19 wherein the longitudinal separation and radial spacing of the guides are controlled to form a, further comprising ~~forming a non-concentric-shaped face on the catalyst substrate which is non-concentric with the longitudinal axis thereof.~~

--19. (new) A method for shaping an end face of a catalyst substrate having a longitudinal axis into a conical or frusto-conical shape which comprises:

rotating first and second guides about the longitudinal axis of the catalyst substrate while a cutting filament extends between the guides; and

controlling the longitudinal separation and radial spacing of the guides so that the cutting filament is inclined relative to the longitudinal axis of the catalyst substrate and intersects the said axis.--